

15th February 2002

URBAN VINTAGE 2002 Paris Fashion of the 1950s inspires designs for a New Contemporary Look

FAD announced the names of the fifteen finalists selected from the many entries from students at fashion colleges and universities across the UK for the 2002 FAD Graduate Fashion Competition. (See attached for finalists' names.)

The successful entrants were chosen for their interpretation of the competition brief, URBAN VINTAGE 2002, drawing on 1950s French fashion and the classic musical film, "An American in Paris". The short-listed students will create a two-garment capsule collection of contemporary designs to reflect the art of streetstyle *Left Bank* and the established lifestyle *Right Bank* to be shown in a fashion installation, along with an exhibition of their designs, at the Institut Français in South Kensington, London, on 12th March.

The fifteen contenders were thrilled to have got this far in the competition. Finalist, Katia Camps-Campins from Central St. Martins, said: *"I cannot tell you how excited I am that I got through! I understood that there were a lot of entries and that the standards were high, so I am really pleased to say the least. I have enjoyed this project more than any other . . . Maybe it's the link with my mother, or maybe it's that I have nothing to lose and nothing to prove to anyone - except to myself."*

A panel of distinguished judges will decide the ultimate winner and two runners-up. The panel includes designers Elspeth Gibson and Russell Sage (an expert in Vintage); Joyce Thornton, Editor/Co-ordinator for 'Generation Now', WGSN; Louise de Caires, Fashion Artist; Amanda Casson, Film Programmer and Eyuuki Iyamamoto, the winner of last year's FAD Graduate Fashion Competition. The chair is Laurian Davies of UK Fashion Exports.

The prizes, which consist of work placements with prestigious fashion designers and accompanying cheques, will be presented on the evening of 12th March after the fashion installation. The competition is supported by the British Fashion Council and is considered a positive and valuable way of supporting young designers at the start of their careers in the highly competitive fashion industry. Sponsors include MRI International (Europe) plc, whose marketing director, David Longman, commented: *"We are delighted to help fund this evening's celebration of excellence in fashion design."*